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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/927,441	08/13/2001	John Mellert	033337/0132	4179

22428 7590 08/25/2004

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WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

TRAN, DZUNG D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2633

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/927,441

Applicant(s)

MELLERT ET AL.

Examiner

Dzung D Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.7.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiyama US patent no. 5,883,735.

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Sugiyama, in figure 13, discloses a method for communicating control information between an optical amplifier repeater 11 (same as line unit) and a end office A, end office B (same as terminal unit) in an optical communication system (figure 13) comprising the steps of:

transmitting, from said terminal, a command signal CM (same as control information) on a selected optical fiber 12 (col. 3, lines 59-62, col. 4, lines 1-6);

receiving and decoding at least some of said control information at a first supervisory unit 23 (same as control unit) of said line unit (col. 4, lines 34-39);
and

sending control information from first supervisory unit 23 to a second supervisory unit 23' within said line unit 11, which is inherently that the second

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supervisory unit 23' decodes said control information and performs a command based on said control information from the first supervisory unit 23.

Regarding claim 2, Sugiyama further discloses control information is a command to measure a power of one of the first and second pump lasers 33 and 33' (col. 10, lines 30-67).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Sugiyama discloses first control unit 23 is connected to first pump laser 33 and adjusts a bias current associated with first pump lasers 33 based on said demodulated first control information and a power of an optical signal transmitted over one of said first and second optical fibers 12 and 12' (col. 10, lines 30-55).

Regarding claim 5, Sugiyama further discloses first supervisory unit 23 comprises: a first demodulating unit 382 of figure 11 (col. 10, lines 35-36) for demodulating the first command signal (same as first control information signal) from the first optical signal (from optical line 12).

Regarding claim 6, Sugiyama further discloses the steps of decoding, at said first control unit, at least a portion of an address associated with said control information; and broadcasting said control information to a plurality of additional control units within said line unit, said plurality of additional control units including said second control unit (col. 4, lines 34-39, col. 10, lines 30-55).

Regarding claim 7, Sugiyama further discloses the system having a plurality of communication paths (12, 12') between an optical amplifier repeater 11 (same as line unit) and a end office A or end office B (same as terminal unit);

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selecting one of said plurality of communication paths 12 between said line unit 11 and said terminal unit (end office A or end office B) for use in transmitting command signal CM (same as control information);

transmitting command signal CM (same as control information) using said selected path until a predetermined fault characteristic is detected; and selecting another of said plurality of communication paths 12' for transmitting command signal CM' (same as control information) after said predetermined fault characteristic is detected (col. 8, lines 9-28).

Regarding claim 8, Sugiyama further discloses each of said plurality of communication paths 12 and 12' includes a different optical fiber (figure 14).

Regarding claim 9, Sugiyama further discloses first supervisory unit 23 comprises: a first demodulating unit 382 of figure 11 (col. 10, lines 35-36) for demodulating the first command signal (same as first control information signal) from the first optical signal (from optical line 12).

Regarding claim 10, Sugiyama further discloses the first supervisory unit 23 for decoding command signal CM (same as control information) and selectively performing an operation associated therewith (col. 4, lines 34-39, col. 10, lines 30-55).

Regarding claim 11, Sugiyama further discloses a plurality of line unit (11 of figure 13), therefore, it would have a plurality of supervisory unit 23 per transmission path.

Regarding claim 12, Sugiyama further discloses an address associated with said line unit, terminal unit, an operation code associated with an operation to be performed (col. 10, lines 43-46).

Regarding claim 13, Sugiyama further discloses control information is a command to adjust a bias current of one of said at least one first and said at least one second pump lasers (col. 10, lines 30-55).

Regarding claim 15, Sugiyama further discloses group of pump lasers 33, 33' which pump an optical data signal transmitted between said terminal unit and said line unit (figure 14).

Regarding claims 16 and 17, Sugiyama further discloses a plurality of said group of devices (24, 33 and a corresponding plurality of said at least two control units 23, 23', said method further comprising the step of:

Addressing, by said terminal (end office A), a command to control (CM) a particular device 33 within one of said groups device to a corresponding one of said at least two control units 23, 23' and receive said address command by a control unit 23 within said line unit 11 which is different than said corresponding one of said at least two control units 23, 23' and forwarding said addressed command thereto.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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- a. Sugaya et al. U.S. patent no. 6,377,395. Controller which controls a variable optical attenuator to control the power level of a wavelength multiplexed optical signal
 - b. Kram et al. U.S. patent no. 6,400,497. Method and apparatus for automatically identifying system fault in an optical communication system
 - c. Harano U.S. patent no. Optical amplifier relay transmission system
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dzung Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-0932.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

Supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703) 305-4729.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



M. R. SEDIGHIAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER